

**Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2016**

Members Present:

Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair
Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair
Caroline Donnelly
Anita Raj (arrived at 7:15 pm)
Sarah Thompson

Staff Present:

Heidi Porter, Director

Also Present:

Michael, Lucy and Carol Hand, 11 Hilltop Drive
Vincent Recca, 21 Hume Road
Joan Paul, 9 Hilltop Drive
Jerry and Jan Mendenhall, 23 Temple Terrace
Ann Kiessling, *The Bedford Citizen*

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. Dr. Brunkhorst chaired.

BOH Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Donnelly moved to accept the minutes of the December 21, 2015 Meeting of the Board of Health as amended; Mr. Kinzer seconded. Vote: 4-0.

BOH Scribe:

Ms. Porter indicated that there are two people who have expressed interest in the scribe position and the applications would be reviewed.

Future Meeting Dates:

February 1, March 7 and April 4, 2016 were chosen as the next BOH Meeting dates.

Keeping of Animals Permit Application Hearing, 15 Hilltop Drive

Dr. Brunkhorst accepted a motion from Ms. Thompson to open the hearing on this application. Ms. Donnelly seconded. Roll call vote: Ms. Donnelly – aye, Ms. Thompson – aye, Dr. Brunkhorst – aye and Mr. Kinzer – aye.

Ms. Porter explained that the proponents, the Hand Family, are applying for a permit to keep 8 chickens. They had historically kept fewer than 5 chickens and did not require a permit. It was reported that the coop and run are existing and they meet all required regulatory set-backs. The proponents requested a variance from the regulation (Section 5.3.2.D) to enable on-site composting of manure.

Mr. Hand reported that his daughter is in 4-H and the family has experience keeping chickens. There was discussion as to whether the chickens could be free-range, as this was a request of Mr. Hand. Concern for predators was expressed by the proponents. Mr. Hand indicated that when they had the cockerel (a male young chicken), they would let them all free-range in the yard and the male would tend to keep the hens from scattering but he was not sure that would happen now. Ms. Donnelly asked if the chickens have ever not come home when loose on the property. Mr. Hand said that they eventually come back. Mrs. Hand indicated that all you have to do is shake the feed container and they return. Ms. Porter indicated that the regulation indicates that animals must be securely fenced and are never to be allowed to roam unattended. As such, if the chickens are attended while free-ranging, then that action would be allowed per the regulation.

Ms. Thompson indicated that if the BOH were to receive any complaints regarding free-range chickens causing a nuisance then Ms. Porter would investigate and the chickens may be required to be secured.

Some of the Hand's neighbors then spoke in favor of them keeping chickens. Mr. Mendenhall indicated that he likes having the chickens nearby and is favor of them being free-range as they help control the tick population. Once everyone present for this case had spoken, Dr. Brunkhorst accepted a motion from Ms. Thompson to approve the permit for the Keeping of Animals at 15 Hilltop Drive including a variance from Section 5.3.2d of the Keeping of Animals Regulation, allowing manure to be composted on-site. Ms. Donnelly seconded the motion. Vote count: 4-0.

Dr. Brunkhorst accepted a motion from Ms. Thompson to close the hearing on this application. Mr. Kinzer seconded. Roll call vote: Ms. Donnelly – aye, Ms. Thompson – aye, Dr. Brunkhorst – aye and Mr. Kinzer – aye.

Board of Health FY17 Budget – Discussion and Vote

Ms. Porter outlined that since the December 2015 Board meeting, where there was a detailed discussion of the proposed FY17 Board of Health budget, she received information from Town Manager Rick Reed that the Board of Health budget for FY17 must include a merit article line item of \$7,826 which equates to 2.83% of the Board budget guideline of \$268,417, set by the Finance Committee. So before any review or changes to expenses, the budget was already over \$881 over guideline which was issued at 2.5% over last year's budget. Ms. Porter updated the Board that the total amount of grant and intern funds received in the past 5 years exceeds \$260,000 but that grant funding is unpredictable and has become more scarce in the past couple of years. Ms. Donnelly indicated that there was a news report that conservative measures at the state level have resulted in less funding being available at the local level. Ms. Porter confirmed that the governor ended the Community Innovation Challenge grant program which in 2014 provided \$111,000 in grant funds to the tick bite prevention collaborative grant.

Accommodating for the merit article amount and including \$3,500 in additional needed expenses (\$2,000 added for partnership with the University of Rhode Island for tick bite prevention/education services and \$1,500 added for community education programs (opioid addiction epidemic, suicide prevention, etc.), the proposed Board of Health budget came in at \$280,624. Ms. Raj moved to that the Board of Health and put forth to the Finance Committee the FY17 Board of Health budget of \$280,624, as presented by Ms. Porter. Mr. Kinzer seconded. Vote count: 5-0.

Ms. Porter reminded the Board that the budget presentation to the Finance Committee would be on Thursday, January 21, 2016. She indicated she would prepare a few slides outlining the budget proposal and past grants.

Board of Health Action Items--Old and New Business:

Since the last Board of Health meeting there were no town committee meetings held which required the Board members' attendance.

Director's Report:

Ms. Porter reported that she did not receive the \$8,000 grant from the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards to support perpetuation of the Healthy Dining Program, container gardens for seniors

and healthy eating/food preparation program for residents with food insecurity, limited means, or limited cooking facilities.

At the request of the Police Chief, Ms. Porter attended a forum at Middlesex Community College on Legitimacy, Procedural Justice and Value-based Policing with area towns. The gist was for the audience to learn how the police interact with the public to make each interaction have as positive an outcome as possible. Many examples were discussed – Henry Louis Gates, Ferguson, Oakland Police Department, and opinions from the audience as to tactical correctness of the police response were requested. She reported it was interesting as a non-public safety person to hear the perspective of the police officers vs. lay people in the audience. She commented that most of the examples of police encounters presented involved a frenetic interaction with yelling, darkness, guns and people who were scared. She asked about how police deal with that mentally and if there is mindfulness training at all. Cambridge PD indicated they are providing that to their staff.

She met with Jon Sills to review the school nurse budget as he prepares the FY17 budget for the School Department.

Ms. Raj moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Kinzer seconded. Vote count: 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

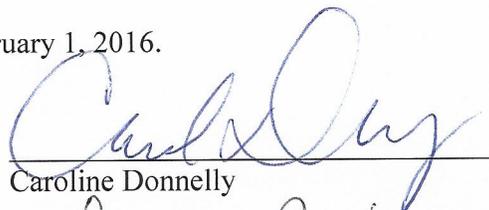
The next meeting of the Board will take place on February 1, 2016.



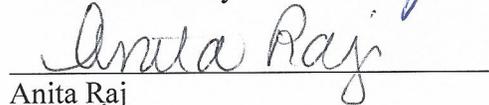
Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair



Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair



Caroline Donnelly



Anita Raj



Sarah Thompson